

two stations operating each on workpiece batches, grouped as respective station batches and being different with respect to the number of workpieces; and transporting said workpiece to and from said at least two stations grouped as a transport batch.

A 29. Workpieces produced by a process which comprises loading said workpieces into a treatment facility comprising at least two vacuum stations; loading and unloading said at least two stations with workpieces grouped as a transport batch; and controlling said transport batch for loading or unloading said at least two vacuum stations.

30. Workpieces produced by a process which comprises vacuum treating said workpieces grouped as respective station batches within at least two stations of a treatment facility; and controlling said station batches.

31. The workpieces of claim 27, wherein the process includes selecting the size of station batches in said vacuum station and in a further station of said facility to be different.

32. The workpieces of claim 27, wherein the process includes transporting said workpieces between said vacuum station and a further station of said facility grouped as a transport batch.

33. The workpieces of claim 32, wherein the process includes controlling said transport batch.

34. The workpieces of claim 28, wherein the process includes controlling said transport batch.

35. The workpieces of claim 34, wherein the process includes controlling said transport batch with a freely programmable process controller unit.

36. The workpieces of claim 28, wherein the process includes controlling said station batches.

37. The workpieces of claim 28, wherein the process includes controlling at least one of said station batch and of said transport batch with respect to batch size and to geometric arrangement.

38. The workpieces of claim 37, wherein said controlling is performed by a freely programmable process controller

39. The workpieces of claim 27, wherein the process further includes transporting said workpieces to and from stations of said facility grouped as transport batches, and selecting the number of said workpieces of said transport batches so as not to exceed the number of said workpieces of a station batch of a transport destination station.